

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 14-18 are pending and are rejected. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 14 and 18 are amended. Claim 17 is canceled. Claim 19 is added, supported at least by original claims 14 and 17, p. 5 ¶1, and Example 1, thus introducing no new matter.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 15-18 are objected to as being in improper dependent form. Claim 17 is canceled, thus rendering its rejection moot. The Examiner states that claims 15-18 do not properly depend from claim 14 because claim 14 recites analyzing or preparing a substance. Amended claim 14 recites only analyzing a substance and added claim 19 recites preparing a substance. Claim 18 is amended to depend from claim 19. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 as indefinite.

Applicants have amended claim 14 to clarify the process. Claim 14 recites that the substance is analyzed by contacting the substance with at least one reactant bound to at least a portion of the integral molded part, supported at least at p. 3 last paragraph to p. 4 first paragraph, and Example 6. "Biological" has been deleted from claim 14, supported at least at p. 3 ¶3, thus adding no new matter. New claim 19 recites that the substance is prepared by contacting the substance with at least one surface region which has been activated. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 19 recites "the steps [that] are undergone to prepare a substance", as the Examiner requires. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 14-16 and 18 are definite and request withdrawal of the rejection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-10, 14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Shukla. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner states that Shukla "discloses a sample preparation device with embedded separation medium".

Applicants' claims recite "An integral molded part of a plastic material for the analysis and preparation of substances".

Applicants define "integral" as "the molded part consists of one chemically unitary starting material" (p. 3 ¶4). Thus, contrary to Shukla which embeds the surface of tubes or columns with chromatographic substances, Applicants integral molded part is unitary. The open pore three-dimensional network is formed on the surface of this unitary material. Thus, Shukla does not disclose an integral molded part as Applicants' claims require.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10, 14, and 17.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in complete condition for allowance. The fee for time extensions is simultaneously made by Electronic Funds Transfer. No other fees are believed due but, if deemed necessary, the Office is authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 20-0809.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative with questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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